

# The Weekly True Democrat.

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NO. 22.

Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

## PLEA FOR MERCY IN TAYLOR CASE

Petition Presented by 300 Women to  
the Pardoning Board.

The following is the full text of the petition for mercy presented to the Board of Pardons last week in the Taylor case, and which was opposed in a legal argument by B. S. Liddon, and turned down by the board:

To His Excellency, N. B. Broward, Governor, and the Honorable Board of Pardons, of the State of Florida:

We, the undersigned wives, mothers and daughters, of the State of Florida, respectfully represent, that we are more closely and continuously identified with the homes and children of the State than any other class of citizens. We are vitally interested in the peace, honor and happiness of the homes of our people. The wives and mothers who have the bearing and training of children within the sacred precincts of their homes are entitled to, and must receive, our sympathy and co-operation, to the end that their holy mission shall be fulfilled; and whatever menaces the peace and honor of that home be averted or removed.

We respectfully represent that Mrs. Laura Taylor, wife of Walter L. Taylor, whose petition to the Board of Pardons for clemency has been refused, is the mother of five dependent children, viz: Fitz William, a son, nine years old; Carrie Taylor, a daughter, seven years old; Frank Taylor, a son, five years old; Jack Taylor, a son, three years old, and Hugh, a baby, one year old; and by reason of their tender years are entirely helpless. Their father, Walter L. Taylor, is dependent entirely upon his daily earnings for their support, and because of the unfortunate trouble in which he is involved, these earnings have been largely drawn upon in the payment of attorneys' fees and other expenses rendered necessary in his defense for the past three years. His little home, now occupied by his family, is now incumbered by a heavy mortgage of twelve hundred dollars, as shown by the records of Leon county, Florida, almost the entire value of the place, which amount is now three years past due and on which he is compelled to pay eight per cent. interest, semi-annually. The support of his family, and the heavy expenses mentioned, have completely exhausted his every resource, so that whenever the husband and father, Walter L. Taylor, is taken from his innocent and helpless wife and little children, they will necessarily be without any support whatever, save and except whatever the earnings of the mother might be, whose burden in the care of nursing babies renders it impossible for her to provide for herself and little ones.

We do not discredit the integrity of our honorable courts, nor do we wish to be regarded as insensible to the necessary punishment of crime; but we are not oblivious to the fact that human tribunals may err, and penalties sometimes are excessive; and in all cases passing the ordeal of human judgment, justice should be tempered with mercy. We believe, from the records, and from trustworthy information, in the case of the State of Florida against Walter L. Taylor, that the judgment of the court rendered upon the finding of the jury that tried the case and which also recommended the accused to the clemency of the court, is excessive and much beyond anything contemplated by the jurors, and fraught with unnecessary hardship and disgrace. The innocent wife and five children must incur and forever bear the odium attaching to the accused husband and father if he suffers this unreasonable and odious penalty; and besides, there are many honorable kindred of this wife and her family, and a large circle of upright and worthy friends, who share with this family the humiliation and pain that must inevitably result to them should Walter L. Taylor be consigned to penal servitude in a convict camp. The idea is painful and revolting to us, and we do most earnestly and unreservedly remonstrate against so awful and crushing a calamity to befall the innocent and suffering wife and helpless children.

We believe that whatever of wrong Walter L. Taylor has committed, has already been atoned for in the suffering and heavy expenses already endured by himself and family.

We do not desire that the infliction of this excessive penalty shall forever operate as a barrier and insurmountable obstacle to the peace and reconciliation of the parties intimately related to the one faction or the other involved herein.

We believe that the pardon of Walter L. Taylor, or the merciful commutation of the sentence inflicted in his case will go far towards the ultimate reconciliation of parties now at variance because of this unfortunate affair.

We are not partisans, nor do we desire to further any other feelings but those of peace.

Therefore, in furtherance of humanity and mercy, and to subserve the loftiest

ends of government, we do most earnestly pray for Your Excellency and the Honorable Board of Pardons, to reconsider your former action and relieve the innocent, helpless and heartbroken wife and children, his aged aged and feeble father and mother, whose years are nearly spent, and the many honorable kindred and friends, by the exercise of that wise, just and humane mercy and clemency.

And so believing, we will ever pray. After reading the petition in a very impressive manner, Miss Anna Flagg made the following remarks:

Gentlemen of the Board: You have heard our petition, and I now present it to you, asking that it may be filed among your official papers.

I now wish to say a few words in addition.

We have not come to ask for justice, but to make a plea for mercy in behalf of the stricken wife and helpless children. We appeal to you as fathers--you are all fathers--we appeal to your father love. You, Governor Broward, have a family of little ones; if you were taken from them could your wife care for and support them if she had no visible means of support? Mr. Crawford, could your wife support her little family without you? Mr. McLin, could your gentle little wife support her little ones under such circumstances? Can you go home and take those little ones in your arms and enjoy their sweet prattle when you think of that desolate home over yonder?

We plead for mercy! Christ said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy!" We all need to have mercy extended to us every day of our lives. If we had meted out to us the same quality of mercy measured to this stricken family, how should we stand? With bowed heads and sorrowing hearts.

We plead for mercy! Could you have witnessed a scene that was enacted a few days ago in that stricken household, your hearts would have been melted in your breasts. The little daughter, the only girl, had not been told of this trouble because of her tender years, for she is only seven years old. She was told by someone, and she came running in and threw her arms around her mother's neck, and through her sobs cried, "Mamma! they ain't going to take our papa from us?" Can you resist that cry? When your little ones home running to you crying "papa! papa!" will not your hearts be pierced by a pang when you think of this little daughter?

We plead for mercy! Every woman's heart in this crowd cries out for mercy! Nay, every woman's heart in this town cries out for mercy.

We would like to ask this board to give us a decision before Friday, as we understand that is the time when his reprieve will expire. We understand that any two of the board with the Governor can render a decision.

Gov. Broward assured the ladies that the other two and absent members would return the next day, and they would render a decision before Friday.

In answer to Liddon's harangue Miss Flagg also said:

"As I said before, we did not come here to plead for justice, but to plead for mercy. This gentleman says the penalty was not excessive. A lawyer has said to us that the penalty imposed was the maximum penalty imposed for that crime.

I think the board might have told us that it had a lawyer here to browbeat us. Ladies we will retire.

Mrs. Howard Gamble followed Miss Flagg substantially in these words:

Gentlemen: We women of Tallahassee, we wives, mothers and daughters, are overwhelmed by the grief that has fallen upon one of our number.

We know that woman's sphere is within the sheltered seclusion of home, but one of these homes has been invaded by unutterable sorrow, and we are here in this unaccustomed place to implore you for mercy.

The name "Pardoning Board" implies that you are associated for the exercise of Mercy, and not for the execution of Justice. If it were otherwise, might not this and all other pardoning boards justly be arraigned for contempt of court when they set aside judicial decrees rendered by the courts after diligent and conscientious investigation?

Since it is your province to grant mercy, grant it now, we beseech you, to this sorrow-stricken mother and these five helpless little ones.

Forgiveness is a divine attribute. On you five men alone in all this broad State is the power to forgive conferred! Oh! exercise it now in behalf of these helpless ones!

Gentlemen, you have heard that they have no home; that the mother will have to toil day after day; that she will have to earn the wages of a strong man to even provide a shelter and the necessities for them. You, fathers of little ones, know how varied and how indispensable are these necessities. You know better than we what it means to provide them. Is this burden not too heavy to be laid on such frail

## LAKE CITY'S PLAN

For Technological School Approved  
By Board of Control.

Quite a large crowd of interested citizens of Lake City was in attendance at a meeting of the Board of Control on Monday, and including Hon. Geo. W. Wilson and Hon. H. H. Buckman of Jacksonville and Senator Frank Adams of Jasper. The board, after receiving for auditing a number of statements of account with the several cities in which educational institutions abolished by the Buckman College Law were situated, made a visitation to the grounds of the Florida Female College, and later held a joint meeting with the State Board of Education, when the permanent location of the Deaf and Blind Institute at St. Augustine was perfected by unanimous vote.

At the joint meeting a proposition was received from Lake City, in the shape of resolutions embodying the same, which the boards, after due consideration unanimously agreed to.

The proposition, in brief, was for Lake City to accept, in lieu of all claims against the State Board of Education a conveyance of all of the University property at Lake City belonging to the State; and by the use of which the board of trustees named to receive such conveyance shall establish and maintain a technological institute not in any manner to compete with University of Florida or the Florida Female College. Among the trustees named are Hon. W. A. Blount, of Pensacola; Hon. Geo. P. Raney, of Tallahassee; Hon. Frank Adams, of Jasper; Hon. Geo. W. Wilson, of Jacksonville; Hon. C. A. Carson, of Kissimmee; Hon. W. L. Palmer, of Orlando and J. R. Parrott, of Jacksonville, with two members of the council of Lake City, to be chosen by that body.

We have not space for the publication in this issue of the entire document, but may do so later. This solution of the matter should meet the approbation of the public at large, and the board is to be congratulated on its adoption.

shoulders, by strong men who have the power to lift it?

How is she to rear these tender plants when she has only bitter tears with which to water them, and only a bruised and broken heart to offer as support to their clinging tendrils?

Do you fathers not consider that the most sacred obligation of motherhood is to form and develop the tender minds, to train and guide the wayward little hearts? And are not our jails and reformatories filled because so many little ones are denied this training? What time will this mother have to devote to this duty if such a burden is laid upon her?

And what of the aged parents, bowed with years and sorrow? Gentlemen, if you do not grant our petition not another day of joy will ever dawn for them in this life; their sun will set in gloom and the dark shadows gather quickly. For them as for the mother and the little ones your verdict will be a "life sentence."

Consider the helpless ones! Every claim save that of mercy has been satisfied in this case. The plaintiff is prosperous and happy. No real injury has been sustained. Not another pang can be added to the suffering of the defendant. Surely you will grant mercy to these helpless, innocent ones! You have granted it in more serious cases. Even the destroyer of human life has been pardoned by you.

We do not wish to weary you with our pleadings, but how can we stop when the Savior himself has said, acquiescing at last, "She has been heard because of her much asking!"

Mrs. A. L. Woodward also spoke, as follows:

Gentlemen: In appearing before this board of clemency, some may criticize and say we have stepped beyond our sphere. We fully appreciate that woman's place of duty is within the sacred precincts of the home; but in this case we are deeply moved by its sadness, and feel that our mission is a righteous appeal for humanity and deserved mercy. And thus we are justified and right.

In your former consideration for a pardon you were bound by the rigid rules of law to consider it from a legal standpoint; but we make no appeal for the accused--only for the poor wife, with five little, helpless babies looking to her for bread, confronted by conditions which make it a physical impossibility for her to earn their support, pay the interest on their mortgage home, and at the same time discharge a mother's duty in raising them properly.

We appeal for this poor, weak wife, who has been true, faithful and devoted; for her five little children and their future welfare and correct raising; for the heart-broken mother and father in their declining years, now nearing three score and ten, in their awful grief and yearnings for their poor, unfortunate boy. We appeal for the stricken home, with all of its sweetness,

its sanctity, its love and devotion--to avert its ruin and dissolution.

Gentlemen, each one of you knows what is in a mother's and father's love; God blessed you with them. You know what it means to have a child; your homes are now brightened with such little ones. When you enter your home and are greeted by your little ones, clinging to your neck with their little arms, showering upon you from the depths of their pure hearts their childish love, kisses, affection and devotion, your whole soul is moved and drawn to them, and you then realize the ties which we now speak of and beg you not to sever--not to destroy nor dissolve; but to be continued by your merciful action.

Lean over their little crib at night and study their innocent and sleeping countenances, as you know poor Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are now doing each night of the few remaining days left them to be together, and your hearts must go out to them with unspeakable sadness, compassion and mercy.

Mercy is the highest attribute of man--a divine inspiration. It is his connecting link with God. As the greatest of writers, Shakespeare, has said: "The quality of mercy is not strained. It blesseth him that gives and him that receives." Yes, it will bless you who give and the poor wife and babies who receive. And mankind will commend it.

Gentlemen, think of your homes! Every home is a sweet home. Think of the sad scene which occurred in the home of the unfortunate accused as they sat together, the poor, anxious old mother, the loving and affectionate wife, and five little children not old enough to realize the awfulness of the moment, awaiting further news, which might mean a happy reunion, or death!

The poor husband and father entered upon the stillness of the moment. His face told the sad tale. Clinging to his arms his wife, he said, "Laura, I must go!" The little 7-year-old girl ran to her mother, and with arms about her neck said: "Oh, Mama, are they going to take our papa away from us?"

Oh, gentlemen, death could not have caused a greater sadness than was that experienced by those poor people. Think of them! Let your thoughts go into their home! Think of that awful moment for separation! Be merciful! Commute the sentence! In the last and awful moment tell these little children to go to break the news to their mama that "Papa is saved!" Make them angels or messengers of gladness, instead of deathly doom! And your judgment will meet with commendation from your fellow men.

In last week's issue, immediately following the article on this page giving the details of the appeal for mercy made by the women of Leon county in the Taylor case, appeared the following lines:

"A storm of indignation often ends with a reign of terror."

The insertion of these two lines was the result of one of the strangest coincidences we remember to have ever known in the newspaper business. The lines had been set in type weeks ago, to fill up small spaces in the column, and when the column in which they appeared was being made up, it was found just two lines short. These two lines were used, without examination, and not until the form was closed and ready for the press was their remarkable aptness and application to the situation discovered.

### The Eppes Murder Case.

On Wednesday the supreme court of Florida affirmed the judgment and sentence of the circuit court in the case of the State versus George Caldwell and Nelson Larkins, convicted of the murder of N. W. Eppes, and sentenced to death.

### Governor's Mansion.

Messrs. Pasco and Mathes, of the Man sion Commission, met according to adjournment on Tuesday, and the citizens' committee presented propositions for a site, which were taken under advisement and the commission adjourned to meet two weeks hence, when it is expected that all of the members will be present and that the matter of selecting a site will be finally disposed of.

Capt. J. W. Bushnell returned home yesterday, after a business visit to East and South Florida.

### Notice.

On Monday, July 31, at 8 o'clock, p. m., the parasol contest at the Capital City Pharmacy will come to a close. The final count will be made at that time. Get busy now and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Change in Time of Departure of Steamer Crescent City from Apalachicola.

The traveling public will please be advised that the steamer Crescent City due to leave Apalachicola daily at 6:30 a. m., will in the future leave there at 7:00 a. m. daily, except Sundays, and Sundays at 7:30 a. m.

R. C. SNIPES, Traveling Passenger Agent, Tallahassee, Fla.

## DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Items of Interest from the Various  
State Departments.

### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Appointments: St. Lucie County--Paul Kroegd, Sebastian, County Commissioner First district. W. T. Lane, Sebastian, Justice of the Peace Second district. H. G. Bronson, Fort Pierce, Justice of the Peace Third district. J. H. Baker, Jensen, Justice of the Peace Fourth district. John F. Parker, Fort Drew, Justice of the Peace Fifth district.

Notaries public at large--F. W. R. Hinman, W. H. Ha-dwick, Andrew T. Lewis, B. B. MacDonald, Thos. P. Denham, S. W. Fox, Eugene Bigelow, Jacksonville; Miss E. E. Seabrook, Milton; W. P. Burdett, Palatka; J. E. Williams, Whitfield; R. W. Campbell, Arcadia; T. J. Carlisle, Lake City; L. W. Smith, Lee J. Gibbon, Tampa.

On Wednesday Governor Broward signed the death warrant of Isaiah Cooper convicted of the murder of John B. Bowman at Arcadia in March, 1903, fixing the date of execution for September 1st.

### STATE DEPARTMENT.

Letters patent: St. Joseph Land and Development Co., Apalachicola, \$2,000,000. Incorporators: H. B. Collins, J. C. VanRiper, Charles B. Duffy, R. H. Temple.

Carney Investment Co., Tampa, \$50,000. Incorporators: W. B. Gray, John L. Carney, C. E. Ball, M. W. Carruth, W. A. Gallaher, Isaac Maas, Samuel Borchardt.

Dowling Lumber and Naval Stores Co., Dowling Park, \$2,000,000. Incorporators: Thomas Dowling, R. S. Dowling, F. M. Dowling, A. G. Patterson, O. D. McFarland.

Live Oak and Perry Railway Co. Same incorporators.

West Florida Fair Association, De-funiak Springs, \$5,000. Incorporators: E. W. Thorp, Wm. Rogers, R. W. Storr, O. B. Campbell, W. W. Flournoy, B. P. Morris, G. P. Henry.

Hutchinson Audit Co., Jacksonville, \$25,000. Incorporators: T. G. Hutchinson, D. H. Doig, M. A. McLaren.

### EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

State Superintendent Holloway has issued a circular to county superintendents concerning the method of applying for State aid to schools under recent legislation, providing--

That the board will adhere strictly to the regulations that aid be given no school making an average attendance of less than fifty pupils. That State aid will be granted no school unless the building in which it is taught is owned by the school authorities in fee simple and contains at least two good recitation rooms. That State aid will not be granted after July 1st, 1905, to any school unless every teacher therein holds a legal and unexpired certificate issued in Florida; the certificate of a principal of a high school must be of such grades as to show that he, himself, is qualified to teach any subject in the high school course of study; the principal of a rural graded school shall be required to hold at least a first grade certificate.

### SUPREME COURT.

The Jacksonville baseball case was up for argument on Tuesday on appeal from Duval circuit court, several lawyers from that city appearing for the appellant, W. C. West, and Attorney-General Ellis for the State.

On Wednesday the court affirmed the judgment and death sentence in the case of George Caldwell and Nelson Larkins, convicted of the Eppes murder.

The court handed down a number of other opinions on Wednesday, which are necessarily crowded out of this issue, but will appear next week.

Mr. J. Hogeboom, traveling representative of that excellent morning paper, the Pensacola Journal, is in the city in its interest, and we bespeak for him and for the Journal liberal patronage from our citizens.

Just as we go to press we learn of the death of two of Florida's oldest and most respected citizens, Gen. Robert Bullock, of Ocala, and Mr. Angus Patterson, of Madison. The people of the entire State will miss and mourn the departure from their midst of these good men.

### TAX NOTICE.

The time allowed by law for payment of taxes expired April 1st. The City Council has instructed me to close my books. All property on which taxes are not paid by August 25th, will be advertised. Under these instructions no exceptions will be made. No matter who you are, if your taxes are not paid by above date, you will have to pay cost of advertising. W. D. Wilson, Tax Collector.

### Fertilizers.

Now is the time to order your fertilizer for everything you wish to grow in the fall. Give your orders to R. A. SHINE, Agent.